



United States Environmental Protection Agency

Region IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

March 11, 2015

Attention: Nancy Rumrill

Subject: Florence Copper

Proposed Class III UIC Area Permit for Production Test Facility

Dear Nancy:

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Darcy Wekell. I am employed as the New Business Development Representative for Currier Construction, Inc. Currier is a heavy civil and wet utility general construction firm with extensive experience in Water, Wastewater and associated chemical pumping and storage solutions in Arizona and the Desert SW. I personally have worked in the mining community for 20+ years as a vendor to many existing mines in Arizona. I was in the audience during the recent EPA meeting in Florence, Arizona regarding the Test Well permitting for Florence Copper.

I am well aware of the environmental issues old mining practices inflicted upon the Arizona landscape. I am also aware of the concerns expressed by the project opposition. In this particular case, I believe Florence Copper has demonstrated due diligence in presenting the process they intend to apply while being mindful of protecting the environment. The current issue at hand is a test well to prove the process is safe. Florence Copper has invested significant time and resources to produce copper with new technology.

Our country was built by visionaries who applied technology and took calculated risks to prove their theories. As a country, we need to keep moving forward to regain our position as the leader in industrial manufacturing and technology. We need copper resources to achieve that goal. On February 25, 2015; Mr. Hal Quinn of the National Mining Association commented at the National Manufacturers Association State of Manufacturing Tour. "We all want a prosperous country, including well-paying jobs that support our communities, our families and future generations. A strong manufacturing sector is the ticket to a thriving economic future, and mining is foundation for its success"*

While attending the EPA hearing on January 22, 2015; I had the opportunity to sit with a group of local residents from the Town of Florence, whose families have lived in Florence over multiple generations. The majority of the people who have lived, raised their families, worked and farmed the land in the immediate township are in support of the Florence Copper Project.

Mining is a critical industry for the Arizona economy. In 2013, Mining drove a 4.87 Billion Dollar impact to Arizona's Economy. ** Florence Copper will continue to drive additional positive tax revenue and above average wages for Arizona and the Town of Florence. Should the proposed test well fail, Florence Copper will be responsible to provide remediation and clean up. Therefore, the risk to the environment and water supply is minimal.

I respectfully submit that Florence Copper should be allowed to proceed with the test well.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcy Wekell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darcy" and last name "Wekell" clearly distinguishable.

Darcy Wekell

New Business Development Representative

Currier Construction, Inc.

* Source: Arizona Mining Association

** L. William Seidman Research Institute, W.P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University